

REMARKS

In a final Office Action dated 13 September 2007, the Examiner rejects all pending claims 12, 15, 28, and 31-41 on prior art grounds. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.114, the present submission is filed along with a Request for Continued Examination and the required fee. Herein, claims 12 and 28 are amended and claim 42 is newly added in order to address and overcome the outstanding rejections. Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration hereof and reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections.

Claims 12, 15, 31, 34-35, and 37-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly lacking novelty with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,072,878 to Moorer. In reply, independent claim 12 is revised to recite an additional limitation, "subsequently rendering the sum signal". Moorer simply does not teach or suggest the handling of sub-signals by adding directional components and then *subsequently* rendering the sum-signal, as recited in the present claim 12. That is, neither Moorer nor any of the cited references disclose performing a rendering *after* summing the sub-signals, as now specified by claim 12. To the contrary, these references execute the rendering *before* processing the sub-signals. This is clearly distinct from the claimed invention. Among the many advantages obtained by the invention of claim 12, it is now possible to perform a processing of signals on the basis of directional components without "encapsulating" the rendering and thereby performing the processing to one specific rendering setup, only. This inventive advantage may not be attained by the relied-upon references, taken singularly, in combination, or as modified.

The present amendment was presented to the Examiner by the undersigned and Applicant's European attorney, Jorgen Moller, during an interview conducted at the Office on 10 December 2007 (see, Examiner's Interview Summary of same date). Claims 12 and 33 were discussed in light of the prior art rejection based upon Moorer. It was concluded

that the Moorer did not appear to provide the "subsequent rendering". However, the Examiner requested formal submission of the amendment for complete consideration thereof and additional search, as needed. Hence, the current filing.

For the reasons expressed above and discussed at the interview of 10 December 2007, Applicant submits that Moorer does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the presently revised claim 12, particularly, Moorer fails to disclose adding the recited sub-signals and then subsequently rendering the sum-signal. Accordingly, claim 12 is novel over Moorer. Claim 12 is not further rejected or objected and is thus allowable to Applicant.

Claims 15, 31, 34-35, and 37-41 are also rejected under §102 in view of Moorer. These claims, however, variously depend from allowable claim 12 and are thus correspondingly novel and, hence, allowable.

Claims 28 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of Moorer. These claims also variously depend from allowable claim 12 and are thus correspondingly non-obvious and, hence, allowable.

Claim 42 is newly added and includes many of the limitations of claim 12 including, "subsequently rendering the sum-signal". Thus, for at least the reasons expressed regarding claim 12, new claim 42 is allowable.

All of the outstanding rejections have been addressed and are herein overcome. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding §102 and §103 rejections. No new matter is added by way of the present Amendments as support is found throughout the originally filed specification, claims and drawings.

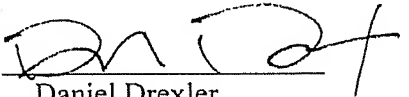
The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-listed phone number regarding this Response or otherwise concerning the present application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 13 March 2008